INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, DPS

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Website

https://ischool.syr.edu/academics/doctor-of-professional-studies-in-information-management/

Overview

The Doctorate of Professional Studies in Information Management (DPS-IM) is a 51-credit, part-time degree program for working professionals who are interested in the applied aspects of research in the information field. This 36-month degree program serves mid-career information professionals and prepares them to be a catalyst for positive change within their organizations. This program will be of particular interest to those who consume, create, supervise, or evaluate research as part of larger problem solving or information management.

Our practice-focused curriculum will prepare students for advanced placement opportunities in senior information management positions in the public, private, defense, academic, and non-profit sectors. Whether the goal is enhancing one's contributions and advancement within an organization, or pursuing a shift in specialization within the information professions, a doctoral degree can open a world of new possibilities for a thriving career in a rapidly changing profession.

Distinctive Features

Limited residency, distance-learning format

The combination of online and brief residency course formats provides flexibility for remote learners while encouraging opportunities for interaction among students and with faculty. Two required one-week residencies per year bring cohorts together, typically in May and September.

Applied focus

The program enriches students' understanding of the role of information in the economy and teaches how to apply this expertise to enhance the effectiveness of information-based organizations in the public and private sectors. Students add to their breadth and depth of conceptualization, build a solid foundation for advanced levels of information research, and develop competencies, data interpretation and domain-specific problem solving.

Doctoral level research

Because most students will enter with one or more relevant masters' degrees in hand, the program's emphasis is on the development of the research that underlies the writing of the thesis. This document is focused on the application of existing scholarly and professional literature to management and leadership in information industries, the military and public sector, or librarianship. A distinctive feature of this program is that the cohort of students pursue common deadlines. For each cohort, the research question and motivation, the review of literature, the method(s) of inquiry, the thesis proposal, and the thesis defense are pursued in a structured thesis-writing class, relying on each other for encouragement and practical support. All theses in the cohort model will likely follow a similar architecture across students' diverse topics in contrast to the individualized approaches that reflect the iSchool PhD program's mentor-apprentice model.

Customizable areas of study

Concentrations and fields of research can focus on many of the Information School's disciplines, including inquiries that connect information studies to business, engineering, communications, or policy studies.

Student Learning Outcomes

Successful students in the DPS-IM program will be able to:

1. Develop research questions
2. Read and synthesize relevant literature
3. Select theories for use in thesis
4. Select and apply the appropriate research method(s) to test the theory
5. Complete data collection and synthesize data
6. Develop skill in scholarly writing
7. Application to changing or impacting practice

Curriculum

The Doctorate of Professional Studies in Information Management is a 51-credit program completed over 36 months. The curriculum involves coursework in methods and theory, a thesis proposal, and thesis research and writing.

Thesis

39 credits

Students will devote 39 credits to the thesis, IST 997 Thesis, the culminating and critical component of the DPS program. Specific semesters cover: topic selection, literature review, methods chapter, data collection/analysis, thesis proposal defense, thesis proposal public presentations, findings/implications chapter, Introduction, and thesis defense.

Code	Title	Credits
IST 997	Thesis	1-6

Methods and Theory

9 Credits

Two methods courses, IST 776 Research Methods in Information Science and Technology and IST 777 Statistical Methods in Information Science and Technology, and one theory course, IST 790 Theories of Information, are required in the first two semesters of the program.

Code	Title	Credits
IST 776	Research Methods in Information Science and Technology	3
IST 777	Statistical Methods in Information Science and Technology	3
IST 790	Theories of Information	1-3

Residency

3 credits

Students will be required to complete a 3 credit in-person residency at the beginning of the summer semester for the year in which the student is admitted.

Code	Title	Credits
IST 801	Introduction to Doctoral Studies	3

Intensive Seminars

0 credits, required

Students are required to complete IST 880 Intensive Seminar in-person, five times for zero credits. The seminars take place in semesters 2, 4, 5, 7, & 8.

Code	Title	Credits
IST 880	Intensive Seminar	0

Program Sequence

The DPS degree program begins with IST 801, an intensive residential introduction to doctoral study at the beginning of the summer semester, usually in May, for the year in which a student is admitted. During the first residential seminar, students will become more familiar with the program's coursework, faculty, technology, and each other. This opening residency leads into the summer online course introducing theories of information, IST 790 Theories of Information.

Students will return to campus in early fall for their second residential Intensive Seminar and have the opportunity to interact with their course faculty, program staff, and fellow doctoral students. The fall online courses address research methods in IST 776 Research Methods in Information Science and Technology and quantitative aspects of research in IST 777 Statistical Methods in Information Science and Technology.

Course work in the Spring semester of year one and going forward will be focused on the sequence of thesis-writing deadlines. Students begin the thesis writing sequence in semester three with thesis topic selection.

The second summer of the program of study begins with the third residential Intensive Seminar, followed by a semester of thesis work that culminates in a draft literature review.

In the fall semester of the second year of study, students will return to campus for their fourth residential Intensive Seminar, continuing their face-to-face interaction with program faculty, staff, and students across cohorts. The residential Intensive Seminar is again followed by thesis work that continues through the Spring semester, at which time students enter doctoral candidacy after successfully defending a thesis proposal.

The third summer semester begins with the fifth residential Intensive Seminar in which the students present their thesis proposals in a public forum. During the final year of the program, students complete their final residential Intensive Seminar in the fall, as well as the remainder of their thesis credits. Theses will be defended in the spring semester, with the objective of having a cohort graduate together in May.

Year 1		
Entering Summer		**Credits**
IST 801	Introduction to Doctoral Studies	3
IST 790	Theories of Information	1-3
	Credits	**4-6**
Fall		
IST 880	Intensive Seminar (residency)	0
IST 776	Research Methods in Information Science and Technology	3
IST 777	Statistical Methods in Information Science and Technology	3
	Credits	**6**
Spring		
IST 997	Thesis (topic selection)	1-6
	Credits	**1-6**
Year 2		
Entering Summer		
IST 880	Intensive Seminar (residency)	0
IST 997	Thesis (Literature review)	1-6
	Credits	**1-6**
Fall		
IST 880	Intensive Seminar (residency)	0
IST 997	Thesis (methods chapter)	1-6
	Credits	**1-6**
Spring		
IST 997	Thesis (data collection/analysis, thesis proposal defense)	1-6
	Credits	**1-6**
Year 3		
Entering Summer		
IST 880	Intensive Seminar (residency)	0
IST 997	Thesis (findings/implications chapter)	1-6
	Credits	**1-6**
Fall		
IST 880	Intensive Seminar (residency)	0
IST 997	Thesis (Introduction chapter)	1-6
	Credits	**1-6**
Spring		
IST 997	Thesis (thesis defense)	1-6
	Credits	**1-6**
	Total Credits	**17-54**